

Hawaii MARINE

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LOMAH system takes rounds

Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.
Combat Correspondent

MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay's known-distance rifle range took a leap into the 21st century last Thursday morning with a demonstration of the new Location of Miss and Hit system for Brig. Gen. R. E. Parker, commanding general of MCB Hawaii.

The revolutionary automated system cost the base more than \$1.2 million and will put the MCB Hawaii rifle range technologically in front of

all other ranges throughout the Marine Corps, said Jim G. Dicus, vice president of sales for ATA Defense Industries, the company that installed the system.

K-Bay's range is the first in the entire United States Armed Services to use this new system, Dicus said. There are two other ranges at Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Jackson, S.C., but those ranges use older technology and single lane systems, said Dicus.

Besides technological advancement, the LOMAH system has another benefit that will help the base in the long run — the cost to run the

system is thousands of dollars less per year than the old system.

The plastic "D" and "E" targets the system uses are projected to take up to 4000 hits before needing replacement.

The LOMAH system also eliminates the need for a pit crew by accurately locating the strike of a shooter's round on a plastic target and displaying that mark on a small, portable television screen at each firing position called a Visual Display Unit.

"Previously, Marines spent half their time shooting and the other half

pulling targets," said Brig. Gen. Parker. "That is no longer required with the LOMAH system, because it is done automatically."

The LOMAH will also help Marines during the rapid-fire stages of the known distance course, according to Dicus.

"In the event someone has a malfunction with their weapon, and has to perform an alibi, he can do it right then because there is no need to paste the holes and run the target back up," said Dicus.

What makes LOMAH accurately track and mark the strike of the

rounds is geometry and mathematics, according to Dicus.

When someone fires, the shock wave from the muzzle of his M16A2 activates the muzzle blast sensor just forward of the firing line. This sensor starts a timer, and electronically informs more sensors in the pit area that a bullet is on its way to that target. Two sensitive, curved bars, called the Visual Projectile Location System, located below the target, pick up the movement of the bullet as it passes over them.

See LOMAH, A-6

Big Island exercise wraps up

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — More than 2,000 Hawaii Marines sharpened their warrior skills at the Pohakuloa Training Area, Jan. 22 through Feb. 17, for the Hawaii Combined Arms Operation 2-01 "Kona Winds" exercises.

Marines and Sailors from MCB Hawaii joined forces to form Marine Air Ground Task Force 3 during the exercise in order to better prepare for combat.

"The mission here is to train in combined arms operations and hone our skills and war fighting capabilities," said Col. R.B. Peele, commanding officer for 3rd Marine Regiment.

Marines spent the first week of their time on the Big Island sharpening their basic weapon skills. Many different weapon systems were fired from the basic M-16A2 service rifle to the M47 Dragon.

"We have many new Marines," said Staff Sgt. Brad Bellipanni, a section leader for 81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "Since we don't go to Combined Arms Exercise, (at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twenty-nine

See HCAO, A-3



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Marines from TOW Platoon, Weapons Company, 1/3, fired their Tube launched, Optically tracked, Wire guided missile at a target down range at the Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawaii's Big Island during Hawaii Combined Arms Operations exercise "Kona Winds 2001," which ended last week.

N/MCRS kicks off annual fund drive

Public Affairs Office
News Release

The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society is set to kick off its 2001 fund drive March 5. The theme for this year's activities is "Proudly Showing our Colors since 1904."

The N/MCRS was formed in 1904 with 19 volunteers who set out to establish a charitable society that would help out Navy and Marine Corps personnel in their times of need.

The organization has grown tremendously since its inception, both in size and in the services that it provides.

From individual budget counseling to nurses conducting patient visits, the N/MCRS is an integral and essential part of our Navy-Marine Corps family. The Hawaii region N/MCRS received a total of \$422,125 in donations in 2000, yet paid out more than \$980,000 in grants and interest-free loans to Marines, Sailors and family members.

In addition to monetary benefits, the society provided countless hours devoted to financial counseling and other services.

"The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is an invaluable asset to the Corps. Marines and Sailors can get immediate help through the society, including the funds they need to carry them through in times of emergency or need," said Col. John A. Lemoine, MCB Hawaii deputy commander. "I hope everyone will give gener-

ously during the fund drive and that many volunteers will be inspired to donate their time to help the society continue its vital mission."

Marines and Sailors have the opportunity to make donations during the drive, and anyone in the Navy Marine Corps team is welcomed to volunteer at the society. Contact your unit N/MCRS representative to make a donation.

See N/MCRS, A-6



Sgt. Michelle Saltzman

Pacific Command officials break ground during the ceremony Feb. 20 at the site of the new PACOM building.

PACOM breaks ground

Lance Cpl. Jacques-René Hébert
MarForPac Public Affairs

CAMP H.M. SMITH — Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Dennis Blair, and other USPACOM officials broke the ground in a ceremony Feb. 20 to celebrate the construction of the new Nimitz-MacArthur Command Center headquarters building here.

Dick Pacific Construction Company is slated to begin the \$86 million project sometime in March and plans to finish the 1920's Hawaiian-styled structure in the summer of 2003.

Officials cite age and architectural problems as para-

mount reasons for the construction of a new building for USPACOM personnel.

"No longer will they have to rely upon the termites to provide the channels that run the cables that power our computer system," Adm. Blair stated.

"Replacing a 50-year old inadequate structure, the new building will also provide a great working environment for the soldiers, Sailors, airmen and Marines who are the heart and soul of the staff," he added.

The new six story, 274,500 square foot building is expected to improve on the current conditions of the pre-World

See PACOM, A-6

Marines honor Pearl Harbor survivor

Cpl. Roman Yurek
Combat Correspondent

NAVAL BASE PEARL HARBOR — Marines honored a World War II veteran who served in Guadalcanal, the Battle of Midway and in the attack of Pearl Harbor, with a burial at sea Feb. 22 at Admiral's Landing on Ford Island.

George Barna, a former Marine technical sergeant, passed away Dec. 23 of complications associated with Alzheimer's disease, while being cared for at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Grand Rapids, Mich.

After a memorial service for him Dec. 28 at the veterans' home, his ashes were shipped to Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association Incorporated to administer final honors.

"The program was set up to honor individuals that were here (on island) during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack by the Japanese," said Jim Taylor, Navy funeral honors coordinator.

Barna was a private during the attack and was awakened that morning by the sound of low flying planes and dropping bombs near what is now Hickam Air Force Base.

"They were flying so close that I could see the faces of the Japanese pilots flying overhead," Taylor recalled Barna saying.

The family of the 3rd Marine Defense Battalion communication specialist was not able to attend the spreading of his ashes into the sea, so Taylor videotaped the entire ceremony.

A funeral for a Marine is normally done with the assistance of a funeral detail. The detail was provided by Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Marine Forces Pacific Band.

See BURIAL, A-6



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Corporal David Stokes, a machine gunner with HQ Co., 3rd Marine Regiment, pours George Barna's ashes into Pearl Harbor Feb. 22.

MCBH NEWS BRIEFS

AUTHOR VISITS MCB HAWAII
Mr. James Bradley, nationally renowned author of “Flags of Our Fathers,” will be the guest speaker at a Professional Military Education (PME) at the Base Theater at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 16. After the PME, Mr. Bradley will be available to sign copies of his book.
Mr. Bradley is the son of former Navy corpsman John (“Doc”) Bradley, one of the six flag-raisers pictured in Joe Rosenthal’s famous photograph, as they raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945. Bradley’s book tells the story of the flag-raisers’ lives and experiences — before, during and after the Battle of Iwo Jima.

AERO CLUB MEETING
The Marine Corps Air Facility will be hosting a second MCAF Kaneohe Bay Navy/Marine Aero Club meeting today at 5:30 p.m. at the BOQ conference room (Bldg. 503.)
The purpose of the meeting is to garner final support fo a future Aero Club at the Air Facility. There will be a short brief given, followed by a question and answer period. For more information, contact Maj. Brian Kapple at 257-3579 or 257-2282.

SEMPER FIT CENTER CLOSURE
The Semper Fit Center basketball and racquetball courts will be off-limits for resurfacing from today through April 1.
For more information, call the Semper Fit Center at 254-7636.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT HOTLINE
For up-to-the-minute status on the MCB Hawaii Business Management Initiative, call the BMI hotline at 257-8866 or logon to www.mcbh.usmc.mil and click on the business management icon.

ISMO LEARNING CENTER OPEN
The Information Systems Management Office Learning Center is again open to offer classes to computer users. To sign up for a class, contact your information systems coordinator or call 257-8500.

NMCRS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is currently seeking volunteers to work flexible hours. Volunteers learn job skills and help deserving Marines and Sailors. If interested, call 254-1497.

RECON MARINES WANTED
Currently 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is in search of Marines to fill its ranks.
Marines of all military occupational specialties are welcome, but must be willing to change their current MOS to one in the infantry or intelligence occupational fields.
Any Marines (enlisted or officer) leaving active duty status and desiring to enter the reserves should contact Staff Sgt. Gerald Rohn at 257-2758 or 257-1077 ext. 221.

HABILITAT SEEKS HELP
Habilitat, a non-profit, non-sectarian substance abuse treatment program, is seeking donations of camouflage utility trousers for their work crews. The MCB Hawaii Base Inspector’s Office is collecting the trousers in Bldg. 216.
For information about making individual or unit donations, contact Staff Sgt. Sean Flanary at 257-8824.

Hawaii MARINE

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Commandant of the Marine Corps’ Women’s History Month Message

March is Women’s History Month, an ideal occasion to reflect on the contributions that women have made to the strength and direction of our Corps. This year’s theme is “Inspiring stories of vision and courage.”
Our history chronicles countless achievements and sacrifices by women serving in, and for, our Corps. This unique lineage can trace its roots back to Lucy Brewer, the legendary woman who served aboard the USS Constitution during the War of 1812. Later, a small band of women officially answered the Corps’ call for volunteers during World War I. Nearly a generation later, World War II-era women Marines performed military duties in far greater numbers. Serving in every clime and place, their contributions paved the way for women Marines today. Women Marines continued to earn accolades for their service in peacetime and during wars in Korea, Vietnam, and Southwest Asia.
Moreover, we cannot forget the achievements, contributions, and sacrifices of



Gen. Jones

Marine wives and the women serving the Corps as civilian Marines. Together, women’s contributions to the Marine Corps will continue to have profound impact on our Corps’ readiness and warfighting capability in the 21st Century.
Commanders are encouraged to conduct programs and promote participation in observance events on base and in the local community. Commanders are also authorized to develop local themes for use at their commands.

James L. Jones
General, USMC
Commandant, USMC

Geronimo!



Gunnery Sgt. Paul D. Bishop

Marines from Bravo Co., 1st Radio Bn., hurtled out of the back of a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 Feb. 13 during helo casting and wet special insertion and extraction training.

President pledges more money for military

Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

FORT STEWART, Ga. — President George W. Bush announced Feb. 12 a significant increase in funding for quality-of-life issues affecting U.S. servicemembers.
Speaking to a group of roughly 6,000 3rd Infantry Division soldiers and their family members here, Bush pledged an additional \$5.7 billion in 2002 to be spent between military pay increases and improving military housing and healthcare.
The president got a rousing round of applause when he announced his plans to spend \$1.4 billion on a pay raise for servicemembers — “pay increases on top of the increases the Congress passed the last couple budget cycles,” he said.
Bush also said he plans to spend \$400 million on military housing and an additional \$3.9 billion to improve healthcare.
But he really gained the crowd’s support with a well-timed “hoo-ah!” The soldiers’ responding shout was deafening.
“Because of you, America is secure. Because of you, the march of freedom continues,” Bush said. “Our nation can never truly repay our debt to you, but we can give you our full support and my administration will.”
He said the nation owes its servicemembers and their families a decent quality of life, necessary training and equipment, and solid defense policies.
“When we send you into harm’s way, we owe you a clear mission with clear goals,” he said.

Bush called the soldiers the foundation of America’s military readiness. “But while you’re serving us well, America is not serving you well enough.”
The president said problems like low pay and poor housing reach across the services with predictable results. Frustration is up, while morale and recruitment are down, he said.
“This is not the way a great nation should reward courage

and idealism,” Bush said. “It’s ungrateful, it’s unwise, and it is unacceptable.”
The president opened his speech by asking for prayers for the nine people missing since Feb. 9 when a U.S. submarine surfaced under a Japanese fishing vessel off Hawaii and sank it. He called for a moment of silence for “those missing, their families and our friends, the people of Japan.”



Defenselink photo

President George W. Bush addresses 3rd Infantry Division soldiers at Fort Stewart, Ga., in February. President Bush shared his ideas on future funding for the military.

In his first visit to a military base since taking office Jan. 20, Bush also visited a single-soldier barracks unit and had lunch with soldiers in one of the post’s military dining facilities.
The president’s Georgia visit kicked off three days of visits with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to military bases to explain some of his national security policies. He visited Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., Feb. 13 and, on Valentine’s Day, National Guard and reserve troops in Charleston, W.V.
Major Gen. Walter L. Sharp, 3rd Division commander, told Bush he couldn’t think of “a better place to see what soldiers and their families are doing in the Army today.”
The president agreed. “You’ve been called the most highly trained and rapidly deployable mechanized force in the world,” he told the soldiers. “That is high praise, and you have earned it.”
Throughout the presidential campaign, Bush promised to take a hard look at military deployments. Much of the manpower from those deployments comes from 3rd Division, he said.
Bush noted many division soldiers are currently deployed to Bosnia and still more will replace them in March. In addition to the current and upcoming Bosnia missions, Fort Stewart soldiers are currently training for a May deployment to Kosovo as well.
“You volunteered for this job. You decided to serve a cause greater than yourself,” Bush told the troops. “I’m proud to lead you, and I’m committed to serve you.”



MCAGCC Twentynine Palms Public Affairs

Marines with Combat Service Support Detachment 25 await a CH-53D Sea Stallion Helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 during the squadron's external lift training at Combined Arms Exercises aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

‘Ugly Angels’ invade 29 Palms’ skies



MCAGCC Twentynine Palms Public Affairs

An HMH-362 CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter transports a humvee from one area on the training area to another during Combined Arms Exercises at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.



MCAGCC Twentynine Palms Public Affairs

A Marine with CSSD-25 secures the humvee to the helo via a harness.

HCAO, From A-1

Palms, Calif.) we have to make the most of this training.”

As Marines improved their weapon skills, Forward Observers had to coordinate the fire power of the M29 81mm mortar and M198 155mm Howitzer to pulverize the lava rocks in the distance seconds before F-18 Hornets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112 from Dallas, dropped 500 pound ordnance on the same target.

Another evolution during HCAO was the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation, which tested both 1/3 and Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, on their combat readiness.

Prior to each unit going on the Unit Deployment Program, they must be evaluated. The MCCRE not only allows the units to train and enhance their skills, Col. Peele said, but it also shows the units where they stand on combat readiness.

Besides sending steel into an area once

covered by molten rock, Marines also took the time to assist the surrounding community.

Marines from 3rd Marine Regiment took two days out of the field to assist Kohala Elementary School, Kohala, Hawaii, in clearing an area to build a new playground. Also, on Feb. 1, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 “Red Lions” assisted the Federal Fire Department fight a brush fire. The fire began Jan. 30, and because fire trucks could not reach the flames, CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters were employed.

The final attack, which ended not only the MCCRE, but also this HCAO was done at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows. Nearly every Marine from Bravo Co., 1/3 was either flown or trucked into Bellows for a simulated Noncombatant Evacuation Operation.

Operational tempo will continue to be high for Hawaii Marines as they prepare for exercises like Tandem Thrust, Cobra Gold, and deployment to Okinawa, Japan, in the future.



Cpl. Roman Yurek

An F-18 Hornet from VMFA-112 swoops down low during a familiarity flight for the pilots. This flight allowed them to see and become accustomed to the Hawaiian terrain.



Cpl. Roman Yurek

Corporal Adrial Marianni, a team leader with H&S Co., 1/3, reaches for another magazine while participating in the squad assault course at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island.

WORD ON THE STREET

What is the proudest moment of your time in the Marine Corps?

“Graduation Day at boot camp because I earned the title and became a Marine.”

Lance Cpl. Michael Lowry
Rifleman
Lima Co., 3/3



“The day I finished a 27-mile (Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation) hike. My feet were really hurting and I was glad to have it over with.”

Cpl. Marc M. Luke
Mortarman
Lima Co., 3/3

“My proudest moment was graduating from Officer Candidate School. As a civilian, the Marine Corps seemed like such an insurmountable goal. When I achieved that goal, it was a very proud day.”

Capt. Pete Solano
Operations Officer
MP Co., HQBn.



“The day I was promoted to corporal. I felt I had earned it and that I was one of the people who really deserved to get it.”

Cpl. Louis L. Moeller
Cryptologic Technician
1st Radio Bn.

“My proudest moment would be participating in the Unit Deployment Program because I got to travel and do alot of things most people don’t get to do.”

Lance Cpl. Edwin Rodriguez
Mortarman
Weapons Co., 3/3



“My proudest moment was working with HMX-1, the presidential helicopter squadron. I was able to travel a lot and had the opportunity to meet the president.”

Cpl. Todd M. Snider
Military Police Officer
MP Co., HQBn.

“My proudest moments are when people I don’t know come up to me out of the blue and thank me for serving.”

Capt. Bonifacio Vinfrido
Comanding Officer
H&S Co., 1st Radio Bn.



Marines come together for throughput lessons during Tri-MEF 2001

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.
MCB Hawaii Community Relations Chief

BLOUNT ISLAND, Florida — Three Marine expeditionary forces can gather for an exercise — but they may not be prepared to execute — unless they’ve been trained.

For the 2001 Tri-MEF Throughput Exercise, III Marine Expeditionary Force took the lead and coordinated three days of classes and instruction Feb. 5-7, prior to the actual supply and logistics training of I, II and III MEF Marines.

In fact, for the exercise, a partial simulation of a maritime prepositioning force operation, more than 140 Marines from around the world gathered at Blount Island, Fla., from Feb. 1-8, along with a handful of Navy Seabees from Port Hueneme, Calif., Together, they spent three days undergoing classes and instruction prior to the actual throughput exercise.

The classes were intended to help the Sailors and Marines understand the various aspects of a Maritime Prepositioning Force Marine Expeditionary Brigade, as well as the Blount Island Command.

Exercise participants and observers were introduced to Blount Island by Col. Christopher Kauffmann, commanding officer of Blount Island Command (a command aboard a leased portion of the island just north of Jacksonville, Fla.).



A Marine scans a data sticker adhered to a vehicle during the exercise.

Colonel Kauffmann also offered a background of the MPF concept, which he said, “started in 1979, during the Cold War,” he explained Blount Island’s role. He described MPF as “What we’re (the Marine Corps) all about — being able to deploy to war.”

Thirteen ships were leased “during the (former President Ronald) Reagan years,” said Col. Kauffmann. The maritime prepositioning ships provide great deployment enablers.”

Blount Island comes into play for the MPF process, the colonel explained, as a single place for the Navy and Marine Corps to regenerate equipment and supplies in need of repair or

replacement from an MPF ship.

For the throughput exercise (so-called because it is a simulation of the process of getting equipment from a ship, through a port and to the combat units), III MEF took advantage of the Motor Vessel Williams’ scheduled maintenance cycle visit to Blount Island. The Sailors and Marines were able to tie classroom instruction to the actual offload of the MV Williams.

However, one difference between the exercise aboard Blount Island and an actual operation, said Col. Kauffmann, was that “all the work (maintenance, offloading, etc.) done here by civilian contractors could be done by (Sailors and Marines).”

Major Lyle Layher, exercise coordinator and III MEF Maritime Prepositioning Force officer, followed the colonel’s island introduction by describing the goal of the exercise as, “the number one objective: for us, as three MEFs, to come together.”

The major described the exercise as having “an operational flavor to it,” because of all the “players” involved, and the various elements that were simulated for the exercise. He expressed his hope that those in attendance could leave with an ability to explain the process and significance of the MPF as a part of the Marine Corps.

After introductions, the exercise participants and observers received classroom instruction about different aspects of an MPF, specifically, about the offload preparation party, as well as arrival and assembly organizations.

The offload preparation party mission is to prepare all equipment for offloading, explained Lt. Col. Drew Miller, of the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic. Ideally, Lt. Col. Miller said, an offload preparation party should board an MPF ship “at least 96 hours prior to the arrival and assembly area closure.”

Lieutenant Col. Miller went on to explain the significance of the working relationships between the offload preparation party, the Naval support element and the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The three elements must coordinate with each other in order for supplies and equipment to get where they need to go — to the combat units.

The offload preparation party is made up of personnel from throughout the Marine Expeditionary Force. The MEB function is basically to enable the air-ground task force the flexibility to deploy in whatever size is appropriate for the mission at hand, whether that be Marine Expeditionary Unit size, larger, or smaller, explained Col. Russell Woody, the I MEF current operations officer.

The Naval support element prepares ships’ offload systems, while the offload preparation party, representing the Marine air-ground task force side of the house, prepares the embarked



Longshoremen offload vehicles from the MV Williams at Blount Island, Fla. Tracking data on the vehicles was later scanned as part of the 2001 Tri-MEF Throughput Exercise.

equipment aboard the ship for offloading. And ultimately, of course, the air and ground combat elements of the MAGTF will be assigned the gear for use in an operation, Lt. Col. Miller explained.

Beyond the formal classroom instruction, Marines and Sailors were treated to an MPF overview by Mike Harvey, a retired gunnery sergeant who currently works aboard Blount Island for the contracted Stanley Associates. Harvey shared his experiences as a former Marine Corps supply chief with MPF operations.

Harvey reminded the Marines and Seabees that there is a technical manual (TM-4790.14), a Marine Corps Order (P-3000.17) and more than 300 responses in the Marine Corps Lessons Learned System. Additionally, those with knowledge of the MPF process need to share it with others, Harvey said. “Too few people understand what makes it (MPF) work.”

Supply, embarkation, and transportation management support personnel were also instructed on the use of Symbol Technology Scanning devices, as well as software for keeping track of supplies and equipment from the ship to the units and back to the ships.

The Symbol Technology Scanning devices are a part of the Automatic Identification Technology, a wireless technology that works on radio frequency. The Marine Corps has adopted to resolve the accountability problem

that Marines have encountered in the past, explained Gunnery Sgt Richard Story, Surface Chief with Marine Forces Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii. The system should allow Marines to track gear anywhere in the world, much like a commercial delivery service tracks packages. The devices and system have been implemented at bases around the Corps, but not all Marines and units have received training.

Representatives from the three MEFs, however, partook in classes and the practical application of interfacing supply systems with the scanning equipment and software. Marines used the scanning devices to scan the bar codes on vehicles offloaded from the MV Williams, then transferred the data from the scanners to the MAGTF Deployment Support System II.

“This is the ‘money’ portion (of the exercise),” said Staff Sgt. Tyrone Welch, assigned to 3d Transportation Battalion, III MEF, Okinawa, Japan.

“Mind-boggling,” was how PFC Ricardo Saldana of 2nd Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C., described the training.

“This is not (just) a class ... we live by this stuff,” said Col. Woody. “We’re not just students — we’re the executors.”

Layher described the training and the exercise as two fold successes in that the three MEFs were able to compare their throughput procedures to validate standard Marine Corps procedures for throughput.



==SALUTES==

Sergeant’s Course Class 2-01

Honor Graduate

Sgt. Thomas E. Beeler
3rd Marine Regiment

Runner Up

Sgt. Valja S. Collingwood
Combat Service Support Group 3
3rd Place
Sgt. Sean M. Nakao
1st Radio Bn.

Gung Ho Award

Sgt. Valja S. Collingwood
Combat Service Support Group 3

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Writing Award

Sgt. Susan M. Deal
1st Radio Bn.

Runner Up

Sgt. Carl T. Martin
India Co., Marine Support Bn.

Honorable Mention

Sgt. David Tanana
Combat Service Support Group 3

Commanding General’s Honor Roll

Sgt. Thomas E. Beeler, 3rd Marine Regiment
Sgt. Valja S. Collingwood, CSSG-3
Sgt. Sean M. Nakao, 1st Radio Bn.
Sgt. David Tanana, CSSG-3
Sgt. Susan M. Deal, 1st Radio Bn.
Sgt. Michael P. Furlan, 1st Radio Bn.
Sgt. Paul H. Strolberg, 3rd Marine Regiment

Gassing up



Pfc. Iain A. Schnaible

An F/A-18 Hornet Fighter Jet from Strike Fighter Squadron 201, receives a fill-up from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Sailors as the jet waits for its turn to take to the Hawaiian skies. Air crews from VFA-201 was aboard K-Bay to conduct flight training. The squadron departed Feb. 20.



Sgt. Richard W. Holtgraver Jr.

Brigadier Gen. R.E. Parker Jr., the MCB Hawaii commanding general, inquires about the system.

LOMAH, From A-1

The computer goes through a complex calculation of the sensory information and accurately displays where the round struck the target.

The LOMAH sensors are so sensitive that they can accurately plot a bullet that has missed the target completely, even by up to ten feet, according to Dicus.

Once the computerized system marks the round, it sends the information to the range tower computer eliminating the need for Marines in the pits to keep score on qualification day.

“When a Marine fires on this system; what he sees is what he gets,” said Sgt. Louis A. Hendricks, tower non-commissioned officer for the LOMAH system. “There’s no room for error with this system.”

ATA Defense Industries has manufactured LOMAH systems for more than ten years, but the system K-Bay has installed uses technology only three years old.

“We’ve had seven of these systems in operation for the last three years in Canada,” said Dicus. “The newest range has been up for 18 months, and just received its millionth round fired.”

Since Ulupau Range construction started late last year, Marines from K-Bay have been bussed across the island to fire at the Pu’uloa rifle range on the Leeward side of Oahu. With the completion of K-Bay’s range, Marines won’t have to make the long trip back and forth.

Coaches course started using the range Wednesday in order to get accustomed to the automated system.

The first group of Marines is scheduled to fire on the LOMAH soon after coaches course.

“The LOMAH system has really brought us into the current century regarding marksmanship training,” said Brig. Gen. Parker. “The automation of the Ulupau range will allow us to run our range details in less than half the time that it has historically taken us. This in turn will allow our Marines to focus on other much needed training.”

PACOM, From A-1

War II building the command has resided in.

“The new headquarters will replace the current aging, 50-year-old World War II facility and provide an efficient, safe and modern work environment for the men and women of USCINCPAC,” said Army Brig. Gen. Brian Geehan, the Director for Logistics, Engineering, and Security Assistance for USPACOM. “Also, the new headquarters

is specifically designed to address the operational concepts established in Joint Vision 2010 – to achieve an information edge by having the most sophisticated and advanced technologies. The new facility will exploit the most advanced information management, decision support and visualization technologies necessary to achieve that information edge.”

After residing in the aging hospital building, the command looks to the new

building as a bridge to the future of the military.

“The French philosopher Joseph Joubert once said, ‘Monuments are the grappling irons that bind one generation to another,’” Adm. Blair reflected. “Our new building...will be a landmark in this part of the beautiful state of Hawaii, and will be a truly stunning monument that will always bind our generation and future generations to the greatest generation – that of World War II.”

BURIAL, From A-1

“Ready, aim, fire,” said the detail staff noncommissioned officer in charge.

With that command given three times, 21 rounds were expended in honor of the WWII veteran.

“This family has lost a very dear man, and the world has lost a very good man,” said Barna’s daughter Susan Karnitz in a letter written for the ceremony.

Many family members wrote letters about their lost loved one, expressing their fond memories of this Marine.

To honor the WWII veteran, Taylor included in his video the two monuments that symbolized the beginning and ending of the war Barna fought in, the USS Arizona Memorial and USS Missouri.

N/MCRS, From A-1

- For more information on volunteering, contact the MCB Hawaii branch at 254-1328, or the Pearl Harbor branch at 423-1314.
- Unit representatives for Marine units in Hawaii are:
- 3rd Marines** 1st Lt. Kristopher O’Grady 257-2017
 - Headquarters Bn.** 2nd Lt. Scott Welch – 257-3110
 - MCAF** 1st Lt. Adam Rodriguez – 257-6670
 - CSSG** 2nd Lt. Steven Schultze – 257-5541
 - 1st MAW ASE** Capt. Rex Sappenfield – 257-3222
 - Camp Smith** Sgt. Maj. Tusipasi Suianoa – 477-8367
 - 1st Radio Bn.** 1st Lt. Earl Patterson – 257-0510
 - 4th Force Recon** – Sgt. Timothy Kosky – 257-1902 x224

IRS site answers military tax questions online

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Doing taxes if you are in the military can be confusing. What do you report as income? If you were stationed in Bosnia or Kosovo for three months or were aboard ship in the mediterranean, how much of your pay is taxable? How are moving expenses treated?

The answers to these and many other tax questions unique to military service are on the Internal Revenue Service Web site in the Armed Forces Tax Guide. Go to http://www.irs.gov/forms_pubs/pubs/p3toc.htm and start reading.

The publication addresses a slew of military tax issues such as areas declared as combat zone exclusions and how to handle income earned by resident alien spouses. It lists what income is taxable and, more important, what is not. It lists exemptions and how to qualify for them.

Servicemembers can request an extension for filing an income tax return if they meet certain provisions. The publication tells how to apply.

Speaking of returns, the IRS this year lets you file electronically, free and directly. You still need compliant computer software and forms, but you don't need to file through a tax prepar-

er or other middleman unless you choose. "E-file" instructions are at http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/elec_svs/efile-ind.html.

Need forms? You can get those over the Internet at the IRS forms page at http://www.irs.gov/forms_pubs/forms.html. Select a document format and then download all the forms you want. Need a form, but not sure which one? Go to a forms searcher at http://www.irs.gov/forms_pubs/findfiles.html and enter some key words.

The search engine will point you to the right area.

How do you handle state taxes? The IRS forms page has a link to a state tax page prepared by Federation of Tax Administrators, or go there directly by manually keying <http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/forms.ssi>. Click "Local and State News" at the IRS site, http://www.irs.gov/search/site_tree.html, for links to individual state tax news pages and information about joint electronic federal-state tax filing. States that also allow direct Internet tax filing include Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and Vermont.

For more information on military tax filing, call the MCB Hawaii Tax Center at 257-1686. The center's hours of operation are Monday through Friday (except Wednesday) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



===== EVERY CLIME AND PLACE =====

MarForPac Band takes Corps music to Kuwait

Cpl. Otto C. Pleil-Muete
MarForPac Public Affairs

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait — Twenty-one members of the Marine Forces Pacific Band left Monday to travel across the globe and spread their Marine Corps spirit during ceremonies in the windy, desert sands of Kuwait.

Marine bands have been asked to perform in Kuwait in previous years in celebration of the country’s liberation from Iraq.

This year, the MarForPac Band helped celebrate the country’s 10th Anniversary celebration.

“We come here as ambassadors of goodwill for MarForPac and the United States Marine Corps,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Alexander K. Gray, the officer in charge and director of the MarForPac Band. “I think it’s a great opportunity for us to help celebrate Kuwait’s liberation,” said Gray, the Montego Bay, Jamaica native. “This year’s ceremony has a special significance from a historical standpoint. It gives us a wholesome understanding of what took place here 10 years ago.”

The band is featuring concert, field, jazz combo, show, and Dixieland band ensembles.

In preparation for their trip,



Cpl. Otto C. Pleil-Muete

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Alexander K. Gray, the MarForPac Band officer, leads members of the band through one of their performances during their trip to Kuwait.

the band had to inventory and appraise approximately 3,400 pounds of essential instrument and sound support equipment used to accommodate its numerous ensembles, according to Cpl. Rojelio Fonseca Jr., the band’s embarkations and loading noncommissioned officer in charge.

Additional equipment for

the trip included power equipment to help them adapt to the electrical output conditions of Kuwait, said Fonseca, the Mission, Texas native.

“Playing in a new environment and climate is a good experience for the band,” said Fonseca. “As Marines, we have to be able to perform in every clime and place.”

Once the band endured its 40-hour plane ride to Kuwait and gathered all its necessary equipment, band members eagerly began their last moment preparations for their performances.

“We’re all really excited to be here,” said Cpl. Julieta Guzman, a saxophone player for MarForPac, and a native of Concord, Calif. “I think most of us came into the Marine Corps to play our instruments and to travel. This is certainly fulfilling those two dreams for me and I’m sure for many others.”